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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### 1940 BOSTON FISH PIER LANDINGS SHOW DECREASE

Salt-water fish landed at the Boston Fish Pier and sold through the New England Fish Exchange during 1940 amounted to 250,945,000 pounds--a decline of over 24 million pounds, or approximately 9 percent, when compared with 1939.

Although the catch was considerably less, the gross earnings of the fishermen, however, were greater in 1940, according to the 21-page annual summary released today by the Boston Fishery Market News office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. The total value for 1940 of \$8,654,112 represents an increase of one million dollars, or approximately 13 percent, when compared with 1939. The average prices received for fish during 1940 were also higher for almost all species.

"The decrease in landings may be charged largely to two major causes," states B. E. Lindgren, Service Agent in Charge. "First, the labor controversy which lasted over a period of fourteen weeks and four days resulted in the laying up of 53 large otter trawlers from the middle of March until the latter part of June. This suspension of fishing activities occurred at a time when normally large landings of groundfish, such as cod and haddock, are made. The decline probably would have been greater but for the fact that the prospect of

higher prices attracted a large number of medium draggers from Gloucester, New Bedford, and New York to supplement the regular fleet of medium draggers and vessel line trawlers still operating out of Boston.

"The second factor which affected the volume of landings was the purchase of 14 large otter trawlers and 9 medium type vessels by the Navy Department to be used as mine layers and sweepers, thus removing them from fishing service. However, during the year several newly launched vessels entered the fisheries, helping to offset this loss."

Haddock was the most important species during 1940, both in poundage and value. The combined catches of haddock and haddock scrod by offshore vessels represented 32 and 16 percent, respectively, of the total catch, and 37 and 14 percent of the total value.

Market cod and large cod were next in importance, with 12 and 10 percent, respectively, of the total catch, and 11 percent each of the total value. Mackerel, pollock, and rosefish (redfish) followed in order, each with 7 percent of the total catch, and 5, 5, and 3 percent respectively, of the total value. Species of lesser importance made up the balance, ranging from cusk with 2 percent of the total catch and value to blackbacks with less than 1 percent.

Whiting accounted for 25 percent of the total inshore landings, followed by haddock and haddock scrod together with 15 percent; pollock, 12 percent; large and market cod collectively, 11 percent; rosefish (redfish), 10 percent; yellowtails, 8 percent; and all other species, 19 percent.

Returns to the fishermen ranked in the following order; haddock and haddock scrod, 23 percent; large and market cod, 17 percent; whiting, 12 percent;

gray sole, 10 percent; pollock, 9 percent; yellowtails, 7 percent; rosefish (redfish), 6 percent; and the remaining species, 16 percent.

With the exception of cusk, mackerel, pollock, and whiting, which show increases of 27, 63, 5, and 23 percent, respectively, over 1939, a consistent decrease in catch by species was revealed during 1940. Conversely, most species show appreciable increases in total values. Weighted average prices were higher for all species except mackerel.

Fewer swordfish vessels operated in 1940; fares numbered only 82 as compared with 147 in 1939. Halibut landings, likewise, declined as there were only two vessels regularly engaged in this fishery.

Offshore fares for the year totaled 3,159, a decrease of 101 when compared with 1939. Inshore craft, however, with 4,084, were 488 trips ahead of the 1939 total of 3,596.

Offshore vessels enjoyed their best fishing month--in volume--during July when 391 fares were landed, totaling 24,508,000 pounds. In 1939 the peak month was March, when 237 trips landed 24,850,000 pounds. Returns to the fishermen were greatest in October 1940 when they received \$761,156 as compared with \$784,262 in March 1939.

Best month for inshore craft was August, when 4,002,000 pounds were landed, to be compared with 4,164,000 pounds in July 1939. Returns to inshore fishermen were largest in November in both years, fishermen being paid \$99,940 in 1940, and \$89,962 in 1939.

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